

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAB-01 AID-20 SCCT-02 EUR-25 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /174 W

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R 050915Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1370

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1858

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, SY

SUBJ: SYRIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY IN ISRAEL

REF: DAMASCUS 1807

1. SINCE REFTEL SYRIAN PRESS HAS CARRIED DAILY ACCOUNTS OF FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY IN ISRAEL, BOTH THE PARTY NEWSPAPER AL-BATH AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AL-THAWRA CARRY EXTENSIVE STORY TODAY, SEPT 5, ACOUT OPERATION OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTIONARIES NEAR VILLAGE OF FASUTA IN NORTHERN GALLILEE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORT, UNIT ENTERED ISRAEL, SEIZED ISRAELI HOSTAGES AND DEMANDED RELEASE OF 12 PERSONS NOW UNDER ARREST BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING ARCHBISHOP CAPPUCCI.

2. THE ARTICLES, BASED ON PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY SOURCES (Wafa) NOTED THAT ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED TO

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ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF THIS INCIDENT BUT THAT

QUITE OBVIOUSLY ACTION IS IN PROGRESS. THEIR PROOF IS THAT ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESMAN HAVE CONFIRMED KILLING OF TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND WOUNDING OF TWO OTHERS. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES REUTERS AS SAYING GOI HAS IMPOSED CURFEW IN VILLAGE. ARTICLE SAYS MILITARY ATTACHES AND REPORTERS IN TEL AVIV CAN CONFIRM THAT ISRAELI MILITARY HAS DECLARED REGION OF FASUTA A MILITARY REGION EFFECTIVE ONE P.M. YESTERDAY (SEPT 4) AND THAT REPORTERS ARE NOT BEING PERMITTED TO FILE STORIES ON THIS INCIDENT.

3. REPORT SAYS ONE HOSTAGE WAS RELEASED AND GIVEN LETTER TO DELIVER TO AMBASSADORS OF FRANCE AND FINLAND IN TEL AVIV CONTAINING LIST OF PALESTINIAN GUERILLAS WHICH GROUP DEMANDING TO BE RELEASED. Wafa CLAIMS ACTIVITY STILL IN PROGRESS AND THAT ISRAELI FORCES CONTINUING TO ATTACK GUERILLA GROUP USING ALL KINDS OF WEAPONS AND THAT GUERILLA GROUP HAS NOW RETREATED INTO FOREST LOCATED BETWEEN FASUTA AND MAALOT.

4. IN ADDITIONAL SMALL STORY ON PAGE TWO DATELINED BEIRUT AND ATTRIBUTED TO SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, AL-BATH REPORTS THAT PALESTINIAN REVOLUTIONARIES HAVE DISCOVERED A PLAN BY AGENTS OF AMERICAN AND ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE TO SOW DISCORD IN RANKS OF FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON. ACCORDING TO REPORT, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF PLO HAS INFORMED ALL OF ITS COMMANDS OF THIS PLAN AND ASKED THEY BE ALERTED TO ANY SUCH ATTEMPTS. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, EXPLOSIONS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC01858
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740246-0179
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740973/aaaacjxw.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DAMASCUS 1807
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; WITHDRAWN <19 JUL 2002 by maustmc, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <28 JAN 2003 by martinjw>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY IN ISRAEL
TAGS: PINS, IS, SY, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005